

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:
a processor;
a host controller coupled to the processor; and
a card reader coupled to the host controller; and
wherein the card reader is operable to apply power to a memory card in the card reader;
and

wherein the card reader is operable to discontinue applying ~~does not apply~~ power to the a
memory card ~~inserted into~~ in the card reader, without the processor being powered down, if the
memory card has not been accessed in a first specified amount of time.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the card reader is internal to a computer system housing the processor.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the card reader is external to a computer system housing the processor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory card is a flash memory card.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first specified amount of time is approximately in a range of 0 to 10 seconds.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein if the memory card is accessed, the system is operable to apply power ~~is applied~~ to the memory card.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is operable to ~~card reader is electrically disconnect the card reader disconnected~~ from the host controller if the card has not been accessed for a second specified amount of time.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the second specified amount of time is approximately in a ~~the~~ range of 0 to 10 minutes.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the system is operable to send a sideband signal ~~is used~~ to signal the card reader to electrically reconnect to the host controller if there is an attempt to access the card.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the host controller provides a peripheral bus interface for the card reader.

12. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
applying power to a memory card in a card reader coupled to a computer;
detecting whether the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ memory card has been accessed during a first specified amount of time;

if the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ memory card has not been accessed during the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ first specified amount of time, removing power from the memory card, without the computer being powered down; and

if the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ memory card has been accessed during the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ first specified amount of time, continuing to power the memory card.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the memory card is a flash memory card.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first specified amount of time is approximately in a range of 0 to 10 seconds.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein if the memory card is accessed, power is applied to the memory card.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ of claim 12, wherein the card reader is electrically disconnected from a the host controller coupled to the card reader if the card has not been accessed for a second specified amount of time.

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ of claim 16, wherein a sideband signal is used to signal the card reader to electrically reconnect to the host controller if there is an attempt to access the card.

18. (Currently amended) The method ~~system~~ of claim 16, wherein the second specified amount of time is approximately in a the range of 0 to 10 minutes.

19. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the host controller is a universal serial bus (USB) host controller and the card reader is a USB card reader.

20. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is operable to power down the processor if the memory card has not been accessed for a second specified amount of time.

21. (New) A system, comprising:

a processor;
a host controller coupled to the processor;
a card reader coupled to the host controller; and
wherein the card reader does not apply power to a memory card inserted into the card reader if the memory card has not been accessed in a first specified amount of time;
wherein the card reader is electrically disconnected from the host controller if the memory card has not been accessed for a second specified amount of time; and
wherein a sideband signal is used to signal the card reader to electrically reconnect to the host controller if there is an attempt to access the memory card.